



Attorney Docket No. 56766.US/ C-3525.0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#5
3-21-03
DOM

Applicant: Gary H. Knauf
Application No.: 09/978,391
Filing Date: October 16, 2001
Title: REINFORCED PACKAGING WEBS AND METHOD
Group Art Unit: 1774
Examiner: Merrick L. Dixon (703) 308-0013
Confirmation No.: 4251

RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 12, 2003, Applicant submits the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a requirement that Applicant make an election between the Group I claims (Claims 1-29 and 37 - 43) and the Group II claims (Claims 30 - 36). Applicant hereby elects Group I but this election is made with traverse and is solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution of this case. It is believed that the requirement to restrict the invention is improper. The claims are sufficiently related that their respective classes would be thoroughly cross-referenced, and many of the same classes would be searched regardless of which group of claims was elected.

The Group I claims are directed to a method of affixing a strip, such as a reinforcement, to an underlying substrate. The Group II claims are directed to reinforced web products having reinforcement strips so affixed. Hence both sets of claims require that a search for strengthening webs with reinforcement strips be made.

An examination of the Group II claims will require a search of the same prior art as an examination of the Group I claims. Both would require searching all of the art relating reinforced webs. Furthermore, separate examination of the Group I and Group II claims may lead to inconsistent examinations and likely will result in duplication



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